

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

M18-1
GENERAL

TO : Members of Tuskegee Syphilis Study Ad Hoc
Advisory Panel

DATE: October 18, 1972

FROM : R. C. Backus, Ph.D. *RCB*
Executive Secretary, TSSAP

SUBJECT: Attached News Articles

These excerpts from the news media were sent to me by Dr. C. L. Hopper, Medical Director, J. A. Andrew Memorial Hospital. Note especially those articles from the Alabama papers. Most of the others are repetitious of material you have already received. Those of you who are planning to go to Tuskegee may find this especially helpful for orientation.

Autopsies In Syphilis Study End

WASHINGTON (AP) — Autopsy procedures connected with a controversial 40-year federal syphilis experiment in Alabama have quietly ended.

The action came several weeks ago when the pathologist who had been performing the autopsies refused to have anything further to do with the U.S. Public Health Service syphilis experiment, called the Tuskegee Study. Its existence was disclosed in July.

The cost of the autopsies and subsequent burial of participants in the Tuskegee Study has been underwritten for the past 40 years by the Milbank Memorial Fund, a philanthropic foundation with headquarters in New York.

Dr. Leroy E. Burney, president of the foundation and a former U.S. surgeon general said in an interview Tuesday he was notified several weeks ago that no further autopsies would be performed.

Dr. Donald Pirozzi, an official at the PHS' Center for Disease Control in Atlanta which supervises the experiment, confirmed that the autopsies have been permanently halted.

"We were notified that the pathologist who had been performing the autopsies at the Tuskegee Institute refused to do any more," Pirozzi said. "We go along with that. That's fine."

He said the PHS would make no effort to find another doctor to take the pathologist's place. Neither Burney nor Pirozzi identified the pathologist.

During the course of the Tuskegee Study, begun in 1932, more than 430 syphilitic black men from the Tuskegee, Ala., area never received treatment for their disease so that PHS doctors could determine through eventual autopsies what damage the untreated syphilis had done.

At least 28 of the men died as a direct result of untreated syphilis.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the PHS parent agency, currently is the Tuskegee Study under investigation.

Although autopsy procedures have been ended, the Milbank Fund will continue to underwrite the cost of burial for Tuskegee Study participants.

"It's a commitment, a promise we made to the men involved," Burney said. "Whether the study is continued or not, we will try to make arrangements with the Tuskegee Institute to continue paying the burial expenses."

AMA Scores

Tuskegee

Report

NEW YORK (AP) — The president of the American Medical Association has criticized the U.S. Public Health Service for withholding penicillin from a group of Alabama black men who were used in a federal syphilis experiment.

In an interview with Medical Tribune, Dr. Charles A. Hoffman said in Chicago that in the mid-1940s, when penicillin was found to be an effective cure for syphilis and was easily available, it should have been given to the participants in the experiment, called the Tuskegee Study.

"Once we have an effective remedy for the treatment of a disease, we must use it," Dr. Hoffman told Medical Tribune. To do otherwise, he added, is "not good medical practice."

The 40-year-old Tuskegee study was begun by the PHS in 1932 in Macon County, Ala. During the experiment more than 430 local black men who had syphilis never were treated for it—even after the advent of penicillin—so that doctors could determine through eventual autopsies what damage the untreated disease does to the human body.

At least 23 men died as a direct result of untreated syphilis.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, parent agency of the PHS, currently has the experiment under investigation.

While Dr. Hoffman criticized the decision not to administer penicillin to the Tuskegee Study's participants, he declined to criticize PHS doctors for withholding the pre-penicillin treatment which consisted of doses of mercury, bismuth and arsenic that sometimes caused severe reactions.

This Montgomery Advertiser - Tuesday, October 3, 1972, p. 3

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Syphilis Study Probe Opens

WASHINGTON (AP) — A citizens' panel appointed to investigate a 40-year federal syphilis experiment on Alabama black men scheduled its first meeting today.

The nine-member panel, on which there are five blacks, was appointed Aug. 24 by Dr. Merlin K. DuVal, assistant secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In the syphilis experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, at least 23 of the participating black men died as a direct result of untreated syphilis. Numerous others suffered such side-effects as heart, central nervous system, vision and glandular damage.

The study, started in Macon County, Ala., in 1932 and continuing to this day, was begun to determine through autopsy of participants what damage untreated syphilis does to the human body.

DuVal asked the panel to determine if the Tuskegee Study was justified when it was undertaken and whether it should have been discontinued when penicillin became available as a cure for syphilis in the post World War II era.

He also asked it to recommend whether the study should be continued and, if not, to suggest ways of terminating it so that the rights and health needs of the 74 survivors are protected.

Alabama Journal
Thursday afternoon,
September 14, 1972

Syphilis Experiment Successful

After Four Years, Report Shows

WASHINGTON (AP) — After only four years of a 40-year federal syphilis experiment in Alabama, doctors had gained the specific knowledge they initially sought, a report indicates.

But instead of ending the study and treating the participants, the doctors continued the experiment with the knowledge that some of the human subjects would suffer potentially fatal diseases.

The experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, began in 1932 and eventually involved more than 430 syphilitic black men from the Tuskegee, Ala., area who were given no treatment for their disease. Also included in the early years of the study were 275 syphilis who did receive treatment and 221 non-syphilitics.

The experiment was run by the U.S. Public Health Service which still has overall control. During the course of the experiment, at least 28 men died as a direct result of untreated syphilis.

Dozens of others suffered such potentially fatal side effects as heart and central nervous system deterioration. Others had glandular and vision damage.

"Morbidity (physical degeneration) in male Negroes with untreated syphilis far exceeds that in a comparable presumably nonsyphilitic group," PHS officials said in a 1936 report on the Tuskegee Study, the first report on the then-four-year-old experiment.

The same report said the study was undertaken to determine the effectiveness of available syphilis treatment which then consisted of injections of metals and arsenic. The doctors said they wanted to find out if the syphilis given treatment fared better than those not receiving it.

But the same 1936 report that posed that question also answered it.

"Among 68 individuals who were adequately treated during the first two years of their infection, not a single one returned with any of the manifestations of late syphilis," the report said.

"The fact that none of these patients returned up to the 15th year of observation with a late syphilitic manifestation indicates that effective treatment has definite preventive value against the crippling manifestations of late syphilis."

The reason doctors were able to observe men in their 15th year of syphilis although the Tuskegee Study was only four years old was because the experiment subjects had suffered from the disease for varying lengths of time—some apparently for as long as 11 years—when the Tuskegee Study be-

gan. Treatment was effective against syphilis, they found also that men who received only partial or inadequate treatment also were helped.

"Nine years after the onset of the syphilitic infection, the inadequately treated cases had next PHS report, in 1946, says 6.9 per cent cardiovascular involvement and 12.3 per cent central nervous system involvement as contrasted with 41.9 per cent and 23 per cent respectively among the untreated created syphilitic Negro males," the report said.

"Cardiovascular and central nervous system involvements were from two to three times as common in the untreated syphilitic group as in a comparable group receiving even inadequate treatment," it said.

There is no mention of the effectiveness of treatment in subsequent reports. In fact the next PHS report, in 1946, says the purpose of the Tuskegee Study was "to describe and evaluate specific changes brought about by the disease in the infected individual."

Macon Syphilis Case Cured After 20-Year Neglect

By A. P. WEISSKOPF
Advertiser Staff Writer

A small-scale study in 1952 by federal and Macon County health officials found that one of three syphilis patients, denied proper medical treatment for almost 20 years in a U.S. Public Health Service experiment, because of neglect of the disease after undergoing penicillin treatment.

The study, part of a progress report on the status of gonorrhea and syphilis in the state, was arranged in a federal project on the long-term effects of untreated syphilis. May cast some light on arguments among health officials whether a group of known syphilis withheld from medical therapy since 1932 would have benefited from injections of penicillin once the drug became available in the late 1940s.

A venereal disease expert at the Center for Disease Control of the Public Health Service in Atlanta said by telephone Tuesday that results of the 1952 study suggest that some of the

patients should have been treated with penicillin after it became generally available in 1946.

At the least, the official added, the findings should have been the basis for further investigation.

But Dr. E. Lammons, current Macon County health officer, disagreed with the interpretation of the federal health official, contending in a telephone interview that the findings were long-term syphilis victims have

received penicillin treatment for years and did not indicate disclosures of the federal experiment, known as the Tuskegee Study, which was terminated 40 years ago to deter-

mine by studying autopsies what damage untreated cases of the disease does to the human body.

About 400 poor, rural black syphilis victims, all "double-blind" at the experiment's onset, also received negative medical treatment throughout old had undergone three years of the experiment of therapy, while the other subjects of the same race and general background were chosen as a control group for comparison.

The 1952 study on three sub-jects who had received varying amounts of penicillin since it became available after World War II was designed to assess the impact of the "antibiotic era" on the outcome of the ex-

periment. Based on the findings of its outset of the 1952 study that 7.5 per cent of 160 syphilis "de-

fects" had gathered for testing had

negative reactions to the serologic test.

Another two patients, 53 and 68, whose diagnoses were "doubtful" at the experiment's onset, also received negative medical treatment throughout old had undergone three years of the experiment of therapy, while the other subjects of the same race and general background were chosen as a control group for comparison.

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Doctors Say Penicillin More Risk Than Cure

By RICHARD LITTLE

Doctors having conversations with the controversial "Keepe Study" told The News this week that, in their professional opinion, treating the 200 men with latent syphilis with penicillin involved in the study "may have been more of a risk than a cure."

One of the two, Dr. Edward Lammons, newly appointed Macon County health officer, also said that news reports surrounding the story "are seriously affecting" a venereal disease program by the county "which is in no way connected with the Tuskegee Study."

Lammons Reacts

Lammons also stated that in the late '30s, when penicillin first became widely available, he doubted that he "would have given it to them [the subjects of the study]."

"And," he added, "I would not give it to them in the '50s, the '60s or now."

"Now, you might find some doctors that would give it now," reacted Lammons, "but considering the nature of the disease, if I were faced with the decision in the '30s whether or not to give the penicillin, I would not have."

Part of the reasoning behind the decision not to give penicillin back then must have been because it was a new drug; they have had reports of allergic reactions. They did not know what effect it would have on the lesions (changes in organs caused by the disease) already present in the vital organs, plus the fact that the disease tends to burn itself out in most cases.

Dr. William Brown, head of the Venereal Disease Unit,

Georgia Division of Physical Health, comparable to the Alabama State Department of Public Health, agreed with Lammons.

Brown Agrees

"By the time the question was raised on whether or not to use penicillin, the decision was probably made because there were no data available applicable to late (latent) syphilis patients. And all the patients involved had late syphilis, not early syphilis."

"In all probability, the decision was based on the fact that the short- and long-term effects of the drug were not known. Even in the '50s, the conclusions were somewhat the same. The treatment of late syphilis doesn't render a cure. It may help, but the risk of drugs at that age [by 1952, the youngest study subject was 45] might outweigh the benefits."

"If penicillin was available when the study began in 1932, and was well evaluated, I'm sure it would have been administered to the subjects."

'Study No Secret'

"And," Brown added, "the study was no secret. There have been at least 15 papers written in medical journals through the years, and the study was discussed in medical meetings openly."

Brown was identified by one report as one of the doctors involved in the last Health Department decision on the study in 1969, when the Montgomery Advertiser reported,

health officials agreed to continue the study.

The Macon County Health Department also released a statement about the study to The News this week. The written statement was compiled by Lammons, W. H. Luck, County Health Department administrator, and Nurse Linnie Laurre, who was connected with the study from 1932 to 1965.

"We are not trying to justify or condemn the study," said Lammons. "What we are trying to do is make it clear to the people of the county that the V D program we are undertaking now is in no way connected with the study, and that the subjects of the study still, like today, are not dangerous. All the cases, even the ones not treated, are not communicable now."

Health Department Statement

The information in the statement was gathered from Mrs. Laurre and a documented copy of an article concerning the disease in a November, 1953, edition of the "Journal of Chronic Diseases."

The County Health Department statement reads in part: "According to Mrs. Laurre, in 1932 when the program started the cure for syphilis was often as fatal as the disease. It consisted of a mixture of arsenic and mercury that was injected into muscle tissues. All women and children and all males with infectious syphilis were given the existing arsenical treatment which resulted in the death of two patients... who have become aware of these reactions and did not submit to the arsenical treatment for syphilis. Because of the individuals' negative reaction to the word syphilis the

term had blood came into use.

"It was agreed that the men in the Tuskegee Study would be kept under observation by the local health officer and public health nurse; that they would be examined at regular intervals to check on their physical status; and that they would not be given the specific arsenical treatment for syphilis."

Never Denied Penicillin

"...when penicillin became available the original group of men with positive cases were between the ages of 35 and 42. Mrs. Laurre further stated that the men were never denied or told they could not receive penicillin. In fact many patients in the study did receive penicillin from private sources."

"The study did not say the men to be examined did not receive the use of the drug, but on the other hand they were not encouraged to use the drug, either. At no time did the study show that... never had 'syphilis' stories repeated in their bodies as a part of the study."

Tuskegee Institute and the John A. Andrew Hospital also released a written statement noting that the program was housed in the mid and late '30s at the hospital. In 1941, the time penicillin became available, the study "was being based in the Macon County Health Department. From 1953 to the present there has been no active medical program at Tuskegee Institute's John A. Andrew Hospital connected with this U. S. Public Health Department research study."

A local civil rights attorney, Fred Gray, said he is representing "a substantial number" of the subjects of the study and the widows of the deceased subjects in order to investigate whether their rights had been violated.

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TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1972

PHONE 751-3070

Syphilis Study Morality First Raised In '66

The controversy over the Tuskegee Study continued into its third week, with one government doctor saying Tuesday that he first questioned the morality of the syphilis study in 1966.

Another government doctor was quoted this week that he was "distracted and disturbed" when he, as a doctor participating in the study, was told to deny Tuskegee Study patients treatment. Also, it was announced this week that a state assistant attorney general, a Tuskegee native, is heading an investigation into the role of state agencies in the study and any possible state law violations.

The Tuskegee Study began in 1932 under the auspices of the U. S. Public Health Service (PHS) and state and local health agencies. Four hundred black Macon County men with syphilis were used in the research, with 200 of them never receiving treatment for the disease, even after penicillin became known as an effective cure. Several health and government officials have ques-

tioned the morality of the study since national-wide emphasis was first placed on it three weeks ago.

Peter Buxtun, who worked in the PHS venereal disease branch in San Francisco, said in an interview with The Associated Press that he first questioned the study in 1966, but was told in 1969 that the experiment had been reviewed and that nothing could be done for the participants.

Buxtun added that when he first heard about the study, he asked for reports on the experiment from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta.

"On reading them [the reports] I became very concerned because it seemed that the volunteers were not fully informed as to what they had volunteered for and as to what exactly was going to be happening to them," Buxtun was quoted as saying.

The AP reported that Buxtun met with PHS officials in 1967 on the study, and that a review of the experiment was launched. Buxtun was then quoted as saying that "as a result of the review, the decision was made not to treat any of the participants."

Dr. William Brown, one of those who met with Buxtun in 1967, indicated in the AP story that the decision was based on the age of the participants. [See last week's issue of The News]. Brown was quoted as saying "When a person has had syphilis as long as the men we were dealing with at the time and the disease has caused no serious side effects, the chances are good that it never will."

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March Of Dimes Chapter Honors Artemisa Junior

Mrs. Artemisa Junior, the 1971 and 1972 campaign director, received one of the March of Dimes highest awards and a certificate of appreciation for "distinguished contribution to charitable causes."

the award was presented

by Chapter Chairman G. M. Crawford during the regular meeting of the Macon County Chapter of the National Foundation, March of Dimes which was held in the "Oaks" August 1.

Before the award was presented, Dr. T. Campbell, a member of the Chapter's Medical Advisory Committee, explained how a program can be designed to aid persons with sickle cell disease — an inheritable blood disorder afflicting many black Americans and others with African ancestry.

"The relatively high prevalence of sickle cell disease makes it a significant health problem," he notes, particularly in Macon County, home of one of the largest black communities in the state.

Dr. Campbell explained that there are two types of blood disorders, and that of the estimated 25 million American Negroes, about 100,000 suffer from the severe type — sickle cell anemia. About 10 per cent, or 2,500,000 have a less severe form — sickle cell trait.

He went on to explain that a screening process can quickly spot persons with sickle cell traits and that a counseling service on marriage can be of great help in preventing sickle cell anemia.

Dr. Campbell, Dr. William Henson, and Mrs. E. G. Trigg were appointed to work out a long-range program by which the Chapter can aid sickle cell victims of Macon County.

Brown has also indicated that penicillin treatment of the disease can cause serious side effects.

Dr. Reginald James, a government medical advisor in Washington, D.C., quoted Monday as stating that he believed the men involved in the study were being told not to take the treatment.

"I was advised that the patient was not to be treated," said James, who was once a PHS official connected with the study. "Whenever I insisted on treating such a patient, he never showed up again."

However, James' involvement with the study occurred between 1939 and 1941, prior to the discovery of penicillin as a cure for syphilis.

Myron Thompson, Alabama's first black assistant attorney general, is in Tuskegee investigating the possibility of any violations of state laws during the experiment and how state officials were involved, the state attorney general's office announced Friday. Assisting Thompson, a native of Tuskegee whose family still lives in Macon County, are Steve Kermish of Montgomery and Calvin Biggers of Tuskegee, both of the attorney general's office.

A spokesman for the office was quoted as saying that criminal prosecution probably would not result from the investigations, because the statute of limitations for most possible violations has expired.

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Educator Named Training Program Area Participant

Mrs. Irene H. Wilson has been approved by the Alabama State Commission as an official participant in the Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana Childhood Teacher Training Project for 1972-73. Wilson is currently



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Two Probes

Dig Into VID Study

Federal prisoners at the Atlanta penitentiary have been voluntary guinea pigs for malaria research since 1944. Page 16-A.

By JEFF NESMITH

State and federal officials launched separate investigations Wednesday into a controversial government study under which treatment was withheld from 200 Alabama men suffering from syphilis.

Officials in the office of Alabama Gov. George Wallace said the federal study may have violated a state law that requires all Alabama residents suffering from venereal disease to obtain treatment.

And an assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare said he was "shocked and horrified to learn" of the experiment and ordered a full investigation.

Meanwhile, the American Medical Association

See INVESTIGATION, Page 16-A

ATLA Constitution

7/27/72

gians

there are still "a lot of narrow-minded people in this country who attach a stigma to being treated for psychiatric troubles."

Jones said he is trying to be "optimistic" about the impact on the national ticket. "I think it is significant that it has been six years since he (Eagleton) received any attention, and I believe he could hold the office of vice president."

Shaw said Eagleton's doctors should make the final decision whether he should remain on the ticket.

"There is the possibility that there will be those who feel that since the vice president is a heartbeat away from the presidency," he said, "that he may not be in the condition to assume the presidency. I think this is a matter for his doctors to decide."

"If they decide he's not up to it, it would be fair to McGovern, to the Democratic party and to America for him to withdraw."

Former Gov. Ernest Vandiver, campaigning in northwest Georgia, said Eagleton should withdraw from the ticket "in fairness to himself and in the national interest."

"His failure to disclose his past condition before being nominated for vice president should impel him to withdraw from the ticket," Vandiver, a U. S. Senate candidate, said. "He should also withdraw for the sake of his physical well-being. I know how physically and mentally demanding a campaign is."

ATLA Const - 7/30/

Syphilis 72.

From Study Are Hunted

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (UPI)—Doctors in this small eastern Alabama town have started a search for elderly blacks who participated in a government sponsored syphilis experiment that started in 1932.

Dr. Henry Foster, president of the Macon County Medical Society, said Friday his group hopes to find as many of the participants as possible and give them treatment for the disease if it still was needed.

It was revealed this week that the program by the U. S. Public Health Service was never halted even when a cure for syphilis became available.

There have been charges that some 400 of the 600 original blacks that started the program were allowed to continue untreated. The program was designed to determine the long range effects of the disease.

Foster said the government agency would be asked to terminate the program.

A black state legislator charged that some of the participants did not know why they were being tested.

Rep. Fred Gray of Tuskegee, a civil rights attorney, said he had been retained to represent "several" of the participants. He declined to name his clients or say how many he represented, but said there was a possibility he would sue the Public Health Service to get damages for his clients.

Georgia markets.

Frank P. French, president of the Georgia Tobacco Warehousemen's Association, said he had received reports that Georgia tobacco is Tuesday were selling about as much of the out-of-state lot as last year.

State Agriculture Commissioner Tommy French stated last week that only 18 million pounds of Carolina tobacco could be auctioned in Georgia this year if Georgia growers are to be able to sell their total crop before last year's 23 million pounds of Carolina tobacco were sold in Georgia.

Industry rules restricted the selling time in all tobacco markets.

Tuesday. French said. "The heavy rains the first of the week placed on the local market during the first several days may be hindering a trend which could mean real recovery for the market. A few individuals, he added, will not be available until about three or four weeks from now — a week or so after the eastern Carolina markets open.

This year the eastern Carolina markets will open early — two weeks after the Georgia tobacco warehouses. Thus, the commodity shortage explanation, is an attempt to prevent

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Syphilis Victims Studied, Life-Saving Cure Withheld

By JIM STEWART

A secret government study has withheld treatment from hundreds of Negroes suffering from syphilis for the past 50 years so their bodies could be dissected after death, it was revealed here Tuesday.

Since the study's inception in 1932, more than 120 participants have died from syphilis or its side effects as a result of not being treated. The government knew of their condition, considered the study, and often developed plans of protection in 1936 withheld the life-saving cure so that autopsies could be performed on the victims.

Officials of the U.S. Public Health Service now admit the program, code named "The Tuskegee Study," was "grossly wrong" and "bordered on genocide."

"It is simply incredible that such a thing could have ever happened. I honestly don't

They Told Him He Had 'Bad Blood'

By DEE NESMITH

NOT VICTIM, Mr. — In 1932, Marion Pollard, a 25-year-old black Alacon County farmer, took advantage of a public health official's offer of a free blood test and was told a few days later that he had "bad blood."

"They been checking on me off and on ever since then," Pollard now 60, said Tuesday. "And they give me a blood tonic."

Pollard was not told — and did not know until Tuesday — that for the past 40 years he has been one of a consistently dwindling number of lustrous pigskin pigs in whose "bad blood" the effects of syphilis have been observed.

U.S. Public Health Service officials revealed Tuesday that under a PHS study, treatment for syphilis has been withheld from hundreds of afflicted Negroes for the 40-year period. The purpose of the study has been observation of the course of the disease in untreated persons over a long period of time.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kennelberry, a nurse with the Alacon County Board of Health who spends most of her time tracking the medical histories of the survivors, told the Constitution Tuesday that Pollard was in the group that had not been treated for syphilis.

don't understand it," said Dr. Don Printz, an official in the venereal disease branch of the CDC.

"When I first came to the center and heard about the Tuskegee Study, I couldn't believe it. . . . It's almost like apartheid. A literal death sentence was passed on some of those people," he said.

All of the victims were black males. Most of them were poor, uneducated, and unaware of their illness or the purpose of the study. When they died they were given a free burial and the family received \$100 from a New York memorial fund. — If they turned the body over for autopsy.

Throughout the many years the men were participants, all their related illnesses and medications were reported to the Atlanta

See VENEREAL DISEASE, Page 20-A

"Back here in the 30s, they give me a certificate, saying I had been in the program 25 years," Pollard said, "and since then they don't come around as much."

During the first 25 years, however, public health officials returned annually to the 40-acre cotton and cattle farm Pollard owns and operates near this tiny town west of Auburn to collect blood samples.

"They haven't been by here in a year or two now," Pollard said. And while he believes he has received good medical care through "the program," Pollard has turned to home remedies during recent years. Pollard's reaction was guarded and quiet.

but he said, "My wife and I have been told that there's a cure for it, but I don't know if it's for real or not."

Last Tuesday, Alacon County Sheriff John Morris and Police Chief C. E. Carter were kidnapped by five armed men who drove them to a field and shot them. The men were looking for political prisoners who the Sheriff forces thought were hiding out there.

They were bound, taken to a swampy area and held until they were released. City officials said that the men were kidnapped in advance for a political rally that is supposed to be held in the city.

However, when the mayor's car became abandoned over his absence, she told a friend, Sheriff Walker, who had been advised of the kidnapping.

Mrs. Walker said Tuesday night that her husband had talked up "some 25 cars" around town to know that "some 25" smoke" was going on.

On a banner that other officials said he kidnapped, the sheriff had no sign of a stake out the horns of a city jail.

The hunt paid off. Late last night, the

See SHERIFF, Page 20-A

Tuesday when a Constitution reporter visited him at his home and told him of the Public Health Service study.

"You say they ain't been doctoring me he asked. 'Well, they's give me blood shots and took out my 25 blood for a reason. I even got one of them shots in my arm one occasion. Pollard said, he

"But they said there was a cure, could avoid that," he said. "They's give me blood out."

Asked repeatedly if he were aware of

See POLLARD, Page

Atlanta Constitution

July 26, 1972

In 5-Year Alabama Study

By M. P. WEISSKOPF
Advertiser Staff Writer
A study by the American
Public Health Association on
selected health problems in
Alabama shows a dramatic
decline in the incidence of
venereal diseases reported to
state authorities in recent
years.

But, at the same time, the
Alabama Department of
Health sponsored a study
which shows a significant
increase in gonorrhea cases
reported in the state.

The study, based on in-
formation gathered from state
and local health agencies
during a 10-month period
ending in January 1971,
shows a 13 per cent decline

in the rate of syphilis cases
recorded in the state during
the time span, 1965-70, from
about 80 cases per 100,000
reported in 1965 to about 15
cases per 100,000 in 1970.

In comparison with other
states during the same five-
year time span, the study
shows, Alabama progressed
markedly, moving from No. 1
in the rate of reported cases
in 1965 to 23rd in 1970.

But, at the same time, ac-
cording to the study, a
significant increase in the in-
cidence of gonorrhea has oc-
curred, moving 10 per cent in
the five-year period, from
about 110 cases reported in
1965 to about 122 cases per

100,000 in 1970.

The increase parallels
growing rates of gonorrhea
throughout the nation.

An official of the state
Bureau of Preventable
Diseases said Wednesday that
rates of gonorrhea in
Alabama have reached
"epidemic proportions" due to
a lack of finances for an ade-
quate control program.

He said that in recent years
the bureau has used funds for
gonorrhea control which are
allocated for the venereal
disease program.

The increased rates of
gonorrhea continued in 1971,
the health official said, with
about 122 cases reported, com-
pared to 110 in 1970, the previous

year. The additional cases
recorded in 1971 increased the
state rate to 122.5 per 100,000.

The decreasing trend in the
incidence of syphilis continued
in 1971, the official added,
with 209 cases reported,
compared with 413 in the
preceding year.

The study concludes that
the reduction of syphilis cases
in Alabama in recent years is
the result of the state's
"case" program of intensive
case contact investigation and
treatment.

The study recommends the
same approach for the control
of gonorrhea.

(Related Story, Page 2)

Myrtle Advertiser - 7/27/72

The Study Raises Legal Eyebrows

However a source of danger to the public health." A intensive to that program of pills was carried out in the 1933 ant. And Health department said the results of this disease de-

after penicillin became a wide-ly used cure for the disease. Officials of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare have announced that a full-scale investigation of the Tuskegee study is underway.

Dr. Hoff said it is not known if any of the who took part in the ex-periment were also examined for the disease.

The Associated Press brought out Tuesday that the study had been running since 1932 to determine the symptoms of the disease on the human body.

The study was run from the Tuskegee Institute, a poor and uneducated, participated in the program. Federal health of-

ficials said one-third of the men were not afflicted by the dis-ease, but the other two-thirds were and, as part of the study, some were denied any treat-ment.

Much of the controversy sur-rounding the program has been based on the fact that treat-ment was denied the men even

after penicillin was available. A similar law passed by the legislature in 1933, making it compulsory for persons between the ages of 14 and 34 to take a blood test for syphilis. Those who refused to be treated if at-tempted to be treated.

Dr. Frederick C. Hoff, direc-tor of the state health depart-ment's school of venereal dis-eases, said it was by neces-sity a full-scale investigation en-ded under the law that state health department was

Montgomery Advertiser
 7/27/72

Syphilis treatment denied Tuskegee men in U. S. study

BY JEAN HELLER

WASHINGTON

For 40 years the U. S. Public Health Service has conducted a study in which human guinea pigs, denied proper medical treatment, have died of syphilis and its side effects.

The study was conducted to determine from autopsies what the disease does to the human body.

PHS officials responsible for initiating the experiment have long since retired. Current

PHS officials, who say they have serious doubts about the morality of the study, also say it's too late to treat syphilis in any of the study's surviving participants.

But PHS doctors say they are rendering whatever other medical services they now can give to the survivors while the study of the disease's effects continues.

The experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, began in 1932 with about 600 black men, mostly poor and uneducated, from Tuskegee, Ala., an area

which had the highest syphilis rate in the nation at the time.

One-third of the group was free of syphilis; two-thirds showed evidence of the disease. In the syphilitic group, half were given the best treatment known at the time, but the other half, about 200 men, received no treatment at all for syphilis, PHS officials say.

As incentives to enter the program, the men were promised free transportation to and from hospitals, free hot

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in newspapers voted for the measure; 19 Democrats and 29 Republicans opposed it.

Left with nothing for the moment, Sen. J. W. Fulbright, D-Ark., saw the voting as a gesture.

"The impact was that the Senate voted for it," Fulbright told newsmen. "Do you think anybody thought it (the cutoff) would get by the House, or the White House? For whatever it is worth, the Senate has expressed its view."

Fulbright, Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield and several others voted for the cutoff, but against the bill. One of these, Sen. Marlow Cook, R-Ky., said, "I've traditionally been an opponent of foreign aid, I don't believe in spending that kind of money."

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Birmingham News
July 26, 1972



Syphilis treatment denied Tuskegee men in U. S. study

lunches, free medicine for any disease other than syphilis and free burial after autopsies were performed.

The Tuskegee Study began 10 years before penicillin was discovered to be a cure for syphilis and 15 years before the drug became widely available. Yet even after penicillin became common, and while its use probably could have helped or saved a number of the experiment subjects, the drug was denied them, according to Dr. J. D. Millar.

He is chief of the venereal disease branch of the PHS Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and is now in charge

of what remains of the Tuskegee Study. Dr. Millar said in an interview he has serious doubts about the program.

"I think a definite moral problem existed when the study was undertaken. A more serious moral problem was overlooked in the postwar years when penicillin became available but was not given to these men, and a moral problem still exists," Dr. Millar said.

"But the study began when attitudes were much different on treatment and experimentation. At this point in time, with our current knowledge of treatment and the disease and the revolutionary change in approach to human experimentation, I don't believe the program would be undertaken," he said.

Syphilis, a highly contagious infection spread by sexual contact, can cause, if untreated, bone and dental deformations, deafness, blindness, heart disease and central nervous system deterioration.

No figures were available on when the last death occurred in the program. And one official said that apparently no conscious effort to halt the program was made after it got under way.

A 1949 CDC study of 276 treated and untreated syphilitics who participated in the Tuskegee Study showed that seven had died as a direct result of syphilis. Another 134 died of heart disease. CDC officials say they cannot determine at this late date how many of the heart disease deaths were caused by syphilis or how many additional deaths could be linked to the disease.

However, several years ago an American Medical Association study determined that untreated syphilis reduces life expectancy by 17 per cent in black men between the ages of 25 and 50, a precise description of the Tuskegee Study subjects. Don Prince, another official in the venereal disease branch of CDC, said the Tuskegee Study had contributed some knowledge about syphilis, particularly that the morbidity and mortality rate among untreated syphilitics was not as high as previously believed. Prince said he did not know the names of PHS officials who initiated the study.

The PHS said he believes the study should have been run by local health officials.

"I can't know why the decision was made in 1932 to stop the program," Prince said. "I was tremendously surprised when I first read

here and found out about it. It really puzzles me."

At the beginning of 1972, according to CDC data, 74 of the untreated syphilitics were still living. All of them, Dr. Millar said, were men who did not suffer any potentially fatal side effects from their bouts with the disease.

Some of them received penicillin and antibiotics in past years for other ailments, Prince said, but none has ever received treatment for syphilis. Now, both men agree, it's too late.

Recent reviews of the Tuskegee Study by CDC indicate that treatment now for survivors is medically questionable, Dr. Millar said. Their average age is 74 and massive penicillin therapy, with possible ill side effects, is deemed too great a risk to the individuals, particularly for those whose syphilis is now dormant.

However, Dr. Millar added, there was a point in time when survivors could have been treated with at least some measure of success.

"In the 1930s when the experiment began, those treated for syphilis were treated with mercury and arsenic," he said. "This period was before penicillin, before sulfa drugs, and the treatment was worse than the disease."

"The most critical moral issue about this experiment arises in the post war era, the years after the end of World War II when penicillin became widely available."

"I know some were treated with penicillin for other diseases and then dropped from the program because the drug had some positive effect on the primary disease (syphilis). Looking at it now, one cannot see any reason they could not have been treated at that time."

For survivors of the Tuskegee Study, the PHS is currently providing the best medical treatment it can, Prince said.

"We see to it that they get a complete physical at least every two years," he said. "We can't treat them for syphilis but we can treat them for heart disease, arthritis and other problems they have. I guess you'd say we're doing all we can."

—Associated Press

VOTE MONDAY NIGHT
Edward Brooke, James Allen

Sheriff turns tables on Beret 'kidnap'

A 'swan' is arranged

"YOU RELEASE the mayor and the police chief and I'll think about it."

"Where are you holding our men?"

"We got some here and some at other jails."

There was a pause. "Okay, you let our men go and we'll let the mayor and the chief go free."

"All right," said the sheriff, "but you let them go first."

Meanwhile, in the woods, Chief Carter and Mayor Mathis were cursing the day mosquitoes had been invented.

SUDDENLY, one of their captors spoke. "You can go free now. But you'll have to walk back. And call your sheriff and tell him you're free."

"Okay," said the chief. "You boys did a good job in taking us. But I wish there hadn't been so many bugs."

They were back at the city hall by 11 p.m. The eight Green Berets were held by Walker until the next morning. "I thought I'd keep them just in case anybody else disappeared during the night," he said later.

Weren't aware of plot

NEITHER THE mayor nor the chief were aware of the kidnap plot, although they knew of the war games. Mrs. Mathis said she knew nothing of it. "I was worried silly," she said, "until they told me that he was held by American soldiers."

The 20th Special Forces headquarters in Birmingham had a flat "no comment" on the kidnaping fiasco or any other phase of the training.

Meanwhile, the town of Anadarko is still buzzing with jolly talk of the incident and residents remark with mirth that the city almost had a new administration even before the election.

Nixon will receive Wallace supporters

Nixon led in all 10 counties of the poll, including 10 in 1964 preference among the Wallace Union members.

It is the latest in a series of elections which had shown sections that lasted 14 years.

**CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEE
ON
ARMY**

Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Room 2100 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Montgomery Advertiser

Complete Edition

30th Year—No. 178

Montgomery, Ala. Wednesday Morning, July 25, 1972

* 32 Page

Syphilis Denied Aid During 40-Year Stud

Of about 600 Alabama Negro men who originally took part in the study, 200 or so were allowed to suffer the disease and its side effects without treatment, even after penicillin was discovered as a cure for syphilis. Treatment then probably could have saved or helped many of the experiment participants, PHS officials say. They contend that survivors of the experiment are now too old to treat for syphilis, but add that PHS doctors are giving the men thorough physical examinations every two years and are treating them for whatever other ailments and diseases they have developed. Members of Congress reacted with shock to disclosure Tuesday by the Associated Press that the PHS syphilis experimentation on human beings was had taken place. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., chairman of the Senate Health, Subcommittee, said through a spokesman, spokesman that he deplores the facts of the case and is concerned about whether any other such experiments exist. The syphilis experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, began in 1932 in Tuskegee, Ala., an area which had no heated water, no electricity and no hospital. It was the nation at that time. When the study began, the discovery of penicillin as a cure for syphilis was still 10 years away and the general availability of the drug was 10 years away. Treatment in the 1930s consisted primarily of doses of arsenic and mercury. Of the 600 original participants in the study, one third died of complications of the disease. The others had the disease. According to PHS data, but the men with syphilis were given the treatment. However, but few were still alive. About 200 men, involved in the experiment for syphilis at all, they were permitted to participate by promise of free transportation to and from hospital, free hot lunches, free medical treatment, and other benefits. The study was a part of the PHS research of the 1930s. The study was a part of the PHS research of the 1930s. The study was a part of the PHS research of the 1930s.

S. Viets Battle to Take Citadel at Quang Tri

Official Says Enemy Resistance Waning

HEADLINERS

City App

Judge Robert P. Bradley of the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals will start a four-week course at the National College of State Judges this month at the University of Nevada, Reno. The course is designed to acquaint selected judges, from every state in the union with the latest developments in the field of law, and also to provide a basic refresher course in fundamentals.

State Reps. David Caution of Decatur and Donald Stewart of Anniston have returned from a State Legislator Conference at Palm Beach Shores, Fla., conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Caution said the conference gave him a good insight into what other state legislatures are doing and an opportunity to further recognize the need for substantial and timely legislative reform if the Alabama Legislature is to be a viable political institution in state government.

any of any member of the organization to
be made. It is a good deal more than a good deal.

Britain's official solicitor-general, Lord Macpherson, said that the British government would not be involved in the case. He said that the British government would not be involved in the case. He said that the British government would not be involved in the case.

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Anthony - Addison - Sunday, July 30, 1992

ations in 35 per cent of cases, in 15 per cent of cases. For the next eight he said